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THE HEDGEHOG
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SHADOW RETURNS
DIRECT EDITION
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LOCATION: LABORATORY ZERO...

AFTER WEEKS OF GATHERING INFORMATION, THE BIO-SYNTHETIC CREATION KNOWN AS SHADOW HAS FOLLOWED A TRAIL THAT LEADS HERE--

--TO A REMOTE ISLAND ABANDONED LONG AGO--

--BY THE STATION SQUARE MILITARY COMPLEX IN CHARGE AT THE TIME!*

I KNOW NOT WHY I'M DRAWN TO THIS PLACE--

--ONLY THAT I'M CONNECTED TO IT!

BUT HOW? IT DOESN'T APPEAR THAT ANYONE'S BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME!

*AS SHOWN IN SONIC # 98.

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KRAK-THUUM!

NO OBVIOUS ENTRANCE IN, SO I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO!

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WHO WOULD HAVE BUILT SUCH A PLACE?

AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

UP AHEAD --THAT VOICE!

THE ONE WHO CREATED ME--

--PROFESSOR GERALD!

--THE MILITARY COMPLEX OF STATION SQUARE SEEKS TO USE MY CREATIONS TO FURTHER THEIR AIMS--

--BUT AS THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY BELOVED GRAND-DAUGHTER MARIA'S DEATH, I WILL USE MY CREATIONS AGAINST THEM!

IT'S A JOURNAL --LEFT BY THE PROFESSOR--

--STATING THAT MY PURPOSE IN LIFE IS ONE OF VENGEANCE!

WHAM!

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, BREAK GLASS

KRAK!!

I WAS SO STARTLED BY THE IMAGE OF THE PROFESSOR--

--THAT I OVERLOOKED OTHER DANGERS!

WHY WASTE ENERGY EXPENDED IN MINDLESS COMBAT--

--WHEN THIS SHOULD ELIMINATE THE OPPOSITION WITH ONE SWIFT ACTION?

FOR FUN!

BAM!

KRAK KESHH!

I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY THE **PREVIOUS MODEL** DIDN'T SURVIVE ITS ENCOUNTER WITH YOU!*

BRRAK!

*A SOMEWHAT SKEWED VERSION OF EVENTS DEPICTED IN **SONIC #149.**

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS CONFIGURED TO BETTER DEAL WITH ANY **CONTINGENCY...**

...AND HIGHER-GRADE **SENSORS** ENABLING ME A VARIETY OF OPTIONS--

--SUCH AS ASCERTAINING THAT THIS PIPELINE CARRIES **LIQUID NITROGEN!**

A MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF **NEUTRAL-IZING** ONE'S OPPONENT--

--WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?

HIGH-VOLTAGE POWER LINES!

INSULATION COVERED. I'M SAFE--

--BUT I HIGHLY DOUBT MY ENEMY IS!

ZZZZTT!

ANOTHER FEW MINUTES AND THE ECLIPSE CANNON WILL BE READY FOR ACTIVATION!

BECAUSE OF THE DANGERS YOUR PROJECT IMPOSES, IT WILL BE DISCONTINUED AT ONCE--

--AND YOU WILL BE EXECUTED IMMEDIATELY!

BHA DUMM

YOU MAY STOP ME, COLONEL--

--BUT NOT EVEN THE GRAVE WILL HALT MY VENGEANCE!

THWOOSH!

KTHUNK

KA-ZZZ-ZAP!!

IDIOT!

YOU'D THINK ITS *SENSORS* WOULD HAVE *ALERTED* IT *BEFORE* FIRING!

INTERESTING! WHAT HAVE WE *HERE?*

A *HEDGEHOG* --BUT NOT SONIC!

I'LL LEAVE IT TO *FATHER* TO FIGURE OUT THIS ONE--

--AS WELL AS DEALING WITH THE METAL MORON IF HE *DAMAGED* THE *DATA FILES* WE CAME FOR!

THE NORMAL HUMMING AND CLICKING SOUNDS HEARD THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT IN THE NERVE CENTER OF A HIGHLY-ADVANCED BASE OF OPERATIONS IS PIERCED WITH THE SUDDEN BURST OF THE KLAXOM ALARM SOUNDING!

BRRP-BRRP-

NOT LONG AGO, THE RESPONSE WOULD BE IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE--

--BUT THAT WAS BEFORE DR. ROBOTNIK WAS RECONSTRUCTED IN HUMAN FORM...*

ZZZZZ

SN--Huh?

BRRP-

WHA-?!

*WAY BACK IN SONIC #118!

ENOUGH, ALREADY!

BRRP-BRRP-

ALARM OFF!

BRRP-BRRP-BRRP-

CON-FOUNDED VOICE RECOG-NITION SENSOR!

A MAN JUST CAN'T GET A DECENT NIGHT'S SLEEP IN THIS PLACE!

IF I REMAIN IN THIS FORM MUCH LONGER, I'LL GO MAD!

DRASTIC MEASURES ARE CALLED FOR!

BUT WHAT?

NO!

IT ISN'T POSSIBLE--!

BRRP-BRRP-

BRRP-BRRP-BRRP!

I DIDN'T MEAN THIS DRASTIC!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

At exactly 12:00:00 AM on the current calandar year 3237, Dr. Robotnik will undergo a...

SYSTEM SHUTDOWN

KEN PENDERS / writer
RON LIM / pencils
JIM AMASH / inks
JACK MORELLI / letters
JASON JENSEN / colors
MIKE PELLERITO / editor

WHERE DID THIS ORIGINATE?

A.D.A.M., MAKE YOUR-SELF USEFUL! FIRST, DISABLE THE ALARM--

--AND SECOND, REPORT ANY AND ALL DATA RELEVANT TO THE CURRENT INCOMING TRANSMISSION!

COMPLYING.

BRR-

MUCH BETTER! CONTINUE!

ORIGIN OF MESSAGE UNKNOWN. TRACING MULTIPLE RELAY SITES-- IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE INITIAL POINT. AS IT STANDS--

"--YOU'LL BE THE LEAST OF SONIC'S CONCERNS IN NINETEEN HOURS, FOURTEEN MINUTES AND 32.3 SECONDS!"

ALL THE BATTLES FOUGHT AND WON, THE FRIENDS WHO'VE COME AND GONE, THE TIMES I'VE SPENT APART WITHOUT YOU--

ANOTHER NIGHT HE'S AWAKE PLAYING HIS MUSIC!

SONIC MAY BE SPENDING TIME WITH FIONA AND WHO KNOWS WHO ELSE--

--BUT HIS HEART IS ELSEWHERE!

IT PAINS ME GREATLY TO SEE HIM LIKE THIS!

I KNOW IT'S BEST TO LEAVE HIM ALONE!

OUR SON MISSES PRINCESS SALLY!

THAT OBVIOUS, DEAR?

I SHOULD SPEAK TO THE BOY FATHER TO SON, BERNIE!

YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING, JULES!

SONIC AND SALLY NEED TO WORK THINGS OUT THEM-SELVES!*

WHAT SONIC REALLY NEEDS--

*SEE THE BIG BREAK UP IN SONIC #134.

"--IS SOMETHING TO FOCUS ON BESIDES FIGHTING ROBOTNIK..."

PERHAPS THROUGH THE PROCESS OF ELIMINATION WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHO WOULD DARE TO THREATEN ME!

YOUR NEPHEW SNIVELY IS THE LIKELIEST CANDIDATE... WITH A PROBABILITY FACTOR IN THE 90th PERCENTILE RANGE.

AGREED, A.D.A.M., HOWEVER--

--THERE'S AN EQUALLY VALID POSSIBILITY KING MAX MAY BE BEHIND THIS, OR HIS DAUGHTER SALLY!--

--TO SAY NOTHING OF THAT BLASTED GUARDIAN OF ANGEL ISLAND, KNUCKLES! NOT EXACTLY A LOT OF LOVE LOST THERE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?

PERHAPS BY TAKING A BOLD, PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION, YOU WILL DRAW YOUR WOULD BE ASSAILANT OUT OF HIDING--THUS GIVING YOU AN EQUAL FOOTING AGAINST YOUR FOE!

BOLD, PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION, YOU SAY? Hmm...

LATER THAT MORNING...

IT'S SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DAY WE'LL HAVE A PICNIC LATER, HOPE!

AWESOME, ROSIE! I JUST LOVE PICNICS!

HEY!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SUN?!

OH, MY!

MAN, AM I IN A FUNK OR WHAT?

I DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING ANYTHING!

HEY!!

TOTAL ECLIPSE TIME!

SCRATCH THAT!

I'M ALWAYS IN THE MOOD FOR SERIOUS ROBO-BUTT KICKING!

"ESPECIALLY IF HE'S GOT THE GUTS TO BRING THE FIGHT TO MY CRIB!"

LOOK! A ROBOTNIK SHIP!!

HE WOULDN'T DARE COME HERE HIMSELF, WOULD HE?!

:GASP=!

IT'S HIM! IT'S REALLY HIM!!

WHAT DO WE DO?!

I DUNNO! SOUND THE ALARM? ATTACK?

WHERE ARE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS?!

SOMEBODY GET SONIC!

I SUGGEST WE DO NOTHING--UNTIL HE EITHER MAKES TROUBLE OR WE HEAR FROM THE KING!

ROTOR!! BUT--BUT-- WE'RE THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS!!

BUT WHAT?! APPARENTLY HE'S COMMITTED NO HOSTILE ACTION--

HE'S EVIL!!

AND UNTIL HE DOES, WE TREAT HIM AS WE WOULD ANY VISITOR!

ARE YOU NUTS?

"YOU THINK SONIC WOULD AGREE WITH THAT GAME PLAN?!"

AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, YOUNG MAN?

GOTTA RUN, MOM!

NOT SO FAST! DID YOU HAVE ANY BREAKFAST?

Uh... umm... er... NO.

THEN YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE UNTIL YOU'VE HAD A DECENT MEAL!

WHAT?

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MY-SELF!

I'M STILL YOUR MOTHER!

I KNOW YOU'RE TOUGH! YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE BEEN IN MANY BATTLES OURSELVES! AND BREAKFAST IS A MUST!

WE WERE CAPTURED BY ROBOTNIK FOR YEARS, BUT I CAN MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME!

NOW HAVE SOME FLAP-JACKS!

SONIC! YOU SHOULDN'T WOLF DOWN YOUR FOOD!

BUT, MOM-- Chomp! Chomp!

AND TRY NOT TO SPEAK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL!

FINISHED!

GIANT ROBOTNIK SHIP OVER-HEAD!!

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?!

JUST BE CAREFUL OUT THERE, OKAY?

AWWW, MOM! IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS GOING TO--

AWWP!!

You!

YOU WERE EXPECTING MAYBE PRINCESS SALLY OR ONE OF YOUR OTHER GIRLFRIENDS?

OOFF!

WHUMF

LEARNED SOME NEW MOVES SINCE THE LAST TIME?

STAND BACK, EVERY-ONE!!

GIVE UP, OLD MAN!

HAI!

AWWKK!!

LET'S SEE YOU TRY THAT AGAIN!

THE SAME OL' SAME OL' IS THE BEST YOU CAN DO?!

HOW DIS-APPOINTING!

YOU JUST GOTTA BE SOME WELL-COACHED FRAUD!

ROBO-BUTT COULD NEVER MOVE LIKE THAT BEFORE!

WHO ARE YOU?!

KRAKSH!

ZZZTTTT!!

Wha?!

NEAT TRICK!

WHERE DID YOU PUT THE MIRRORS?

I MAY BE DESPERATE, HEDGEHOG, BUT I'M NOT STUPID!

NOW THAT YOU'VE TRASHED MY 3-D HOLOGRAPHIC SOLIDIFIER WITH A LUCKY KICK--

--WHY DON'T WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS AND DISCUSS THE REASON FOR MY BEING HERE!

IN A WORD-- SURVIVAL!

NAMELY, MY OWN!

GOOD ONE!

PULL YOUR FAT OUT OF THE FIRE!

I WOULDN'T QUITE PUT IT IN THOSE TERMS, BUT THAT WOULD BE THE GENERAL IDEA, YES!

DO YOU REALIZE HOW ABSURD YOU SOUND?!

MY ENTIRE SITUATION IS BEYOND ABSURD, BUT HERE WE ARE!

AS IT STANDS, I HAVE JUST UNDER FIFTEEN HOURS LEFT!

THEN WHAT?

THAT'S JUST IT! I'M NOT SURE--

--BUT THE MESSAGE I RECEIVED DIDN'T EXACTLY INSPIRE ONE WITH MUCH OPTIMISM FOR A LONG LIFE!

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE QUESTION-- WHAT HAS MY SON TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS?!

JULES, LOOKING BETTER THAN EVER! HOW'S YOUR BROTHER FEELING? STILL GUILTY OVER HELPING ME ROBOTIZE MILLIONS?

HOWEVER, YOUR SON HAS BEEN THE ONLY CONSISTANT THORN IN MY SIDE OVER THE PAST DECADE--!

SINCE HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE LIFE MISERABLE FOR ME--

--I WAS HOPING SONIC COULD DO THE SAME TO WHOEVER'S AFTER ME!

WHY SHOULD SONIC GO ALONG WITH ANY HARE-BRAINED SCHEME YOU'VE COOKED UP?

AT LEAST WITH ME, YOU KNOW THE DEVIL YOU'RE GETTING!!

"--BESIDES, I CAN GET YOU OUT OF THAT TIN CAN, JULES!"

PLEASE TELL ME AGAIN--

--HOW WE'RE NOT STICKING OUR NECKS IN A NOOSE!

I WISH I COULD, SONIC--

--BUT IF THERE IS A FORCE EVEN WORSE THAN ROBOTNIK TO BE RECKONED WITH--

--THEN WE NEED TO LEARN ALL WE CAN NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO US!

FOR THE RECORD, I AM DOING THIS FOR MY FATHER, AND NOT AS SOME FACT-FINDING MISSION!

KHA-WHUHH

MY APOLOGIES FOR THE ROUGH LANDING, BUT THE REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM ISN'T AS SMOOTH AT THE CONTROLS AS THE HOLOGRAM YOU WRECKED!

YEAH, YEAH! WHATEVER!

LET'S JUST GET ON WITH IT!

AT LAST! WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE ABODE, GENTLEMEN!

MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORTABLE WHILE I ACCESS THE ELECTRONIC LOGS FOR OUR DEAR ROTOR!

"DEAR ROTOR"? HE KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T?

I REFUSE TO DIGNIFY THAT WITH A RESPONSE!

ONE CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL, Y'KNOW!

BEEP-BEEP-BEEP... INCOMING, DR. ROBOTNIK!

ON-SCREEN, A.D.A.M.!

"SYSTEM SHUTDOWN"? DOES THAT MEAN YOU'RE BITING THE BIG ONE?

You now have exactly 12 hours before SYSTEM SHUTDOWN

WOULDN'T THAT MAKE YOUR DAY?

NO, MY BEST GUESS IS A MALEVOLENT FORCE WHOSE PRESENCE MADE ITSELF KNOWN ONLY RECENTLY!

YEAH? IN WHAT WAY?

YOU COULD SAY IT WAS A DEMONSTRATION OF A TECHNOLOGY I DIDN'T BELIEVE POSSIBLE ANYMORE!

THIS IS LIKE PULLING TEETH!

WHAT KIND OF TECH?!

THUM THUM

THAT SOUND-- COMING CLOSER!

I KNEW IT!! YOU SUCKED US INTO A TRAP, DIDN'T YOU?!

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, ON MY WORD AS A DEMONIC, SCHEMING EVIL GENIUS--

THUM THUN

--I SWEAR TO YOU I DON'T KNOW THE CAUSE OF THAT SOUND! BEST GUESS I WOULD SAY IT'S A ROBOT, BUT I DOUBT IT'S ONE OF MINE!

WHY FATHER, HOW ON MOBIUS COULD YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR DARLING DAUGHTER?!

Mecha?!

STA-RING

I COULD HAVE SWORN SHE WASHED AWAY INTO THE SEWERS! *

*REFERRING TO SONIC #133!

OUT OF MY WAY SEA LION!

FATHER AND I HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT!

WELL?

WELL WHAT?

DO SOMETHING! I DIDN'T BRING YOU HERE TO STAND AROUND!

SIGH...

IT GOES AGAINST MY BETTER JUDG-MENT--

--BUT I'M GONNA DO IT TO IT!!

YOU MISSED!

MISSED AGAIN!

I'M CURIOUS HOW YOU SURVIVED OUR LAST GET-TOGETHER--

--I GUESS I'M NOT THAT CURIOUS AFTER ALL!

Whoa!!

HOW COME I NEVER GET THE EASY ONES?!

ROTOR! LOOK OUT!!

UGH!

BAM!!!

OOF!

AND NOW FATHER, IT IS TIME.

TIME?

TIME FOR WHAT?

TIME TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES AGAINST THE KINGDOM OF ACORN!

YOU'RE BETRAYING ME? HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!

WAIT!!

I THOUGHT I HAD TWELVE MORE HOURS!

WHY DON'T YOU QUERY A.D.A.M. REGARDING THE TWELVE HOUR DELAY BROADCASTING THE TRANSMISSION??

TWELVE HOUR DELAY?! BUT THAT WOULD MEAN--

AFFIRMATIVE.

MY MASTER IS NOW IN CONTROL!

CONTINUED...

FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #158, ON SALE 01/25/06!
PLUS, MORE SONIC ADVENTURE IN SONIC X #5, ON SALE 02/08/06!